



# US EPA Region 8 Gold King Mine Deployment Guide

August 9, 2015

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# 1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide overall deployment procedures and information for Region 8 response personnel deploying to an incident. Incident specific information will be added to this document or distributed with this document. Please be sure to review this document and complete requirements as described and within described timeframes.

## **Additional regional resources:**

US EPA Region 8, Response Support Corps Implementation Plan, November 8, 2007

US EPA Region 8, Incident Management Team Implementation Plan, December 17, 2007

US EPA Order 2070, Incident Management Teams, November 12, 2008

US EPA Order 2072, Response Support Corps, August 4, 2009

# 2. Incident Description/Situation Overview

On August 5, 2015, EPA was conducting an investigation of the Gold King Mine. The intent of the investigation was to assess the on-going water releases from the mine and to assess the feasibility of mine water treatment. The plan was to excavate the loose material that had collapsed into the cave entry back to the timbering. During the excavation, the loose material gave way, opening the adit (mine tunnel) and spilling the large volume of water stored behind into Cement Creek, a tributary of the Animas River.

Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately one million gallons of water (estimated from the dimensions of the mine adit) that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

The large pulse of water dissipated in about an hour. In fact today the water in Cement Creek and the Animas in Silverton is no longer orange and is clearing. The adit is still discharging lower flows into Cement Creek. EPA Region 8 has built four treatment ponds from the adit, one pond holds enough water for 1 hour flow, the other ponds hold enough water for two hour flow. EPA are treating the mine water diverted to the ponds with caustic soda and flocculent once the ponds are built. .

EPA is coordinating with ATSDR in response to public health concerns/questions associated with the mine waste plume. ATSDR has been in communication with local health officials at San Juan Basin Health in La Plata County Colorado and San Juan County Health Department located in San Juan County Colorado. Public health questions/concerns should be directed to Chris Poulet, ATSDR/R8 at 303-312-7013.

EPA Region 8 has been coordinating with Region 6 in Dallas, Texas. Region 6 is working closely with the New Mexico Environment Department to evaluate possible impacts in New Mexico. Potentially impacted water systems have been notified and precautions are in place to ensure drinking water in homes is protected. EPA.

### ***Location Information:***

Silverton, Colorado, San Juan County

## **3. Travel Arrangements**

All travel arrangements and TAs need to be coordinated with:

Phillip Werner @ 303-312-6831

Stephanie Gordon (backup) @ 303-312-6845

The closest airport is the Durango-LaPlata County Airport (DRO).

Check in at the follow hotel in Durango (No reservations needed at this time, call and verify):

Durango Downtown Inn

800 Camino Del Rio

Durango, CO 81301

Phone: (970) 247-5393

Room Rate: \$125/night

Travel Accounting String: 2015 T 08L 303DC6 A8K9RV00

## **4. Check in/Check out Procedures**

Upon arrival, please check in with the Incident Commander, Craig Myers at 303-808-1738 or Resource Unit Leader, Luke Chavez 720-320-6250 located at the LaPlata County Fair Grounds at Main and 25<sup>th</sup> Street Durango, Colorado. It's just on the east side of Main.

## **5. Deployment Operational Hours**

The required schedule for each deployment will vary, however you should expect to work long hours under potentially stressful conditions, typically, 12 to 14 hours per day, 7 days a week. The expected duration of the deployment will be two-week increments with additional days for an overlap of personnel coming into the position being trained by the outgoing OSC.

Specific work hours will be assigned once on site. At this time, we are only operating one day shift, no night operations.

## 6. Equipment

The required equipment for each deployment will vary, however, it is generally recommended that you bring the following when possible: laptop with charger, government cell phone with charger, EPA ID clothing, MiFi's, government issued calling card or teleconferencing card and flash drive(s).

Any equipment checked out for deployment will need to be checked back in either prior to demobilization from the incident or upon return to your regional office depending on the originating source of the equipment.

## 7. Health and Safety

All deployments are filled through the resource ordering system managed by the EPA Removal Program/Regional Emergency Operations Centers (REOCs). Positions are ordered by the Incident Commander as determined by the mission requirements. Position requests will include the expertise, training, certifications and past experience needed.

It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to clearly articulate health and safety and any other special requirements (e.g. safety training).

Once on site, please familiarize yourself with reporting procedures for any health and safety emergencies and/or concerns as well as contact information and locations of first aid stations and medical facilities.

### ***Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):***

For this response, deployees should be prepared for mostly IMT/ICP casual comfortable clothing. If you'll be deployed for field work we will work with you individually on your PPE needs.

### ***Weather/Environment Awareness:***

If your deployment requires field work or spending time outside, please check the weather and be aware of changes in weather. You will need to plan on bringing clothing suitable for the deployment conditions.

### ***Special Needs:***

The available amenities for each deployment will vary; however, it is generally recommended that you bring with you from home any personal items you may need during your deployment such as medications.

### **Security:**

Security procedures will vary for each deployment, but generally, plan on wearing your EPA ID (or deployment issued ID) visibly above the waist during your deployment unless the incident dictates alternate procedures.

Once on site, please familiarize yourself with reporting procedures for any security emergencies and/or concerns as well as locations and contact information for onsite or the nearest offsite security.

### **Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM):**

On site CISM services availability will vary by incident. If there are no CISM services available at the incident, or for use upon return from the incident, our Region 8 CISM contacts are Johanna Miller, EPR-SA and Wendy Thomi 8-MO. As an additional resource, please see the attached Stress Management Pre-deployment Tool Kit.

## **8. Finance**

This section contains the regional finance section that pertains to your deployment. Additionally, there may also be on-site tracking requirements which need to be met.

### **Instructions for PPL**

**Overtime (OVTHR)** - Please note that for Overtime, hours may not be recorded until actually worked. Compensatory Time While in Travel Status requests should be completed where warranted. All overtime is assumed to be unscheduled. Unscheduled overtime consists of overtime assigned during the same administrative week in which it is performed.

**Waiver of Bi-weekly Pay Cap** – EPR will provide a list every two weeks of employees who are included in the pay-cap waiver, along with any changes (i.e., additions, deletions) highlighted. This will be submitted by Wednesday of the first week of the pay period to Region 8 HR, and then will be submitted to the Cincinnati HR SSC by Thursday. The Cincinnati HR SSC will process the personnel action for all employees serviced by their office, and ensure that the actions for employees serviced by other HR SSCs are entered as well. Changes put in place during the second week of the pay period will be submitted on the list for the following pay period and will be processed retroactively.

**Note:** Lifting the bi-weekly pay cap does not remove the limits on annual pay caps.

**PeoplePlus (PPL) Account Code Favorites** – The Finance Office will notify you directly once the appropriate account has been established in your PPL account code favorites for charging your hours to the site. For out of region employees, contact your PPL Account Code Manager. The following account code should be used for this response: 2015 T 08L 303DC6 A8K9RV00. For any issues regarding your People Plus account code, contact Judy Hansen at 303.312.6417.

**Timesheet** - Submit the attached completed time sheet to your supervisor and submit to Christine Portillos ([portillos.christine@epa.gov](mailto:portillos.christine@epa.gov)) NLT noon on the second Thursday of the pay period. Update your time in PPL and attest and submit if you have access. If not, Christine can enter your time on your behalf for Region 8 employees. Please let them know if you need their assistance. Out of region employees should coordinate with their respective regional PPL Coordinators and/or timekeepers. (See attached Excel version of the timesheet or you may use the hardcopy version below.).

**EXHIBIT 3. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIMECARD**

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequently Used TRC's ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶

REGHR - Regular Basic Pay  
OVTHR - Overtime  
NTDIF - Night Differential  
NTDOT - Night Differential OT  
HAZ25 - Hazard Pay - 25%  
OTH25 - OT Hazard Pay - 25%

Pay Period End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Page \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Home Region/Program Office: \_\_\_\_\_

**Week 1**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	ROW TOTAL	TRC	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sub Total Week 1	

**Week 2**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	ROW TOTAL	TRC	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sub Total Week 2	

I certify the hours posted above are accurate for the work performed.

Printed Name of Field Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Field Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_